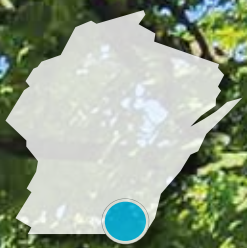




THE SPIRIT of Geneva Lakes



Vol. 35 No. 10

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OCTOBER 2023

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Advertiser's index

@properties.....	20
Abbey Springs.....	14
Ackman Glass & Mirror.....	8
Addie Water Systems.....	10
AepfelTreow Winery.....	28
Allied Senior Services Ins. & Inv.....	10
Always Remember That.....	28
AMB Roofing & Sheet Metal.....	10
Apple Barn Orchard and Winery.....	32
Aronson Fence Co Inc.....	31
Brightonwoods Orchard.....	29
Burtness Chevrolet Buick GMC.....	6
Caravelle Lighting.....	6
Carpets Plus Outlet, Inc.....	30
Chris' USA.....	12
East Troy Brewery.....	12
Elkhorn Gun Barrel.....	2
Evergreen Golf Club.....	18
Geneva Crossing Senior Neighborhood.....	8
Gino's East Pizzeria.....	12, 14
Gypsy Glen K-g Kastle.....	30
Hafs Road Orchard.....	12
John Thielmann & Sons, Inc.....	24
Larry's Towing & Recovery.....	30
Local Folks Restaurant & Pub.....	12
Luisa's Pizza Inc.....	12, 18
Mars Resort.....	12
PATS Services Inc.....	20
Pine Street Cafe.....	12
Premier Wine & Spirits LLC.....	12
Rau Salon.....	16
Sophisticatering.....	20
Stowell's Catering Service.....	20
Studio Dori.....	8
Sugar Creek Mutual Insurance.....	22
The Jewelry Center.....	18
Verlo Mattress.....	26
Veteran's Truck Line, Inc.....	8
Westside Landscape.....	30

October events calendar	4
Pioneer Cemetery honors the past.....	5
A passion for pumpkins.....	11
Dining directory.....	12
Say "I do" at Abbey Springs	15
Wedding guest list, music tips.....	21-23
Legends of Lore at Old World.....	25



ON THE COVER

Dr. Phillip Maxwell (portrayed by Tom Yoder) and his wife, Mrs. Dr. Maxwell (JaNelle Powers) as she would have been called in those days, stand at the marker of the Maxwell family plot at Pioneer Cemetery in Lake Geneva.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ
Spirit of Geneva Lakes





IT'S COMIN' UP OCTOBER EVENTS

6-8 Lake Lawn Resort's Annual Family Fall Festival Enjoy lakeside wagon rides, eats and sweets, and festive fun all weekend long. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8 offer family fun including scarecrow building, pumpkin bowling, sack races, pumpkin ring toss, lawn games and a station to decorate your own donut. Lake Lawn is at 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan.

6, 13 and 20 Spiritualism in the Victorian Era 7-8:30 p.m. Experience the spine-tingling excitement of spiritualism at Black Point Estate & Gardens. Read more details on page 7.

7 Elkhorn Holiday Craft Bash Previously hosted at several locations throughout the Elkhorn area, this annual event is now held entirely at the Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it will feature more than 300 crafter, artisan and food booths. Admission \$5 a person. Info: walworthcountyfairgrounds.com.

7-8 Lake Geneva Oktoberfest Located in the street on the 200 block of Broad Street Downtown Lake Geneva, join us for live music, delicious food, craft brewed beer, local artisans and vendors, kids' activities, dog races, and more!

13 American Legion Shrimp Boil Sons of the American Legion Squadron 24, 735 Henry St., Lake Geneva, will host a shrimp boil fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door (\$20, adults; \$10, kids; free for 5 and younger.) The all-you-can-eat meal includes sausage, potato, onion, corn and bread.

20-22 Pumpkin Drop & Annual Fall Festival Lake Geneva Ziplines & Adventures, N3232 County Rd. H. Soar down the dual racing zipline and drop a pumpkin into the target below to win. The festival will feature prizes, LG Axe Throwing and live music by The Ellingtwinns. Reserve a spot: Call 262-248-9271 or visit lakegenevaadventures.com.

29 Trunk or Treat The Lake Geneva Jaycees will host this free event from 1 to 5 p.m. at Lake City Social, 111 Center St., Lake Geneva. Events include: candy craze, face painting, games galore, strolling magician, bounce house, live music, local business

booths and, for the adults – an Old-Fashioned Cocktail & Beer Bar. Kids – don't forget to wear a Halloween costume! All proceeds will support local food and gift drives.

Ongoing events

Lake Geneva Farmers Market Each Thursday May through October at beautiful Horticultural Hall, 330 Broad St. in downtown Lake Geneva. Farmers, artisans, craftsmen and vendors offer up some of the area's very best items. The market is held rain or shine from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Geneva Outdoor Market Lake Geneva House of Music presents the Geneva Outdoor Market on Sundays, May 7 through Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Located at the Lake Geneva House of Music festival grounds, N 3241 Highway H, the market celebrates local farmers, producers, food and beverage vendors, and artisans.

Tristan Crist Magic Theater, at 609 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. One of a kind performer that wows audiences with jaw-dropping illusions and gut-wrenching escapes! For show dates and times call 262-248-0505 or visit www.lakegenavamagic.com.

Dancing Horses Show At the Dancing Horses Theatre, 5065 Highway 50, Delavan. This dazzling spectacle features an array of horse breeds that perform alongside their trainers in this cavalcade of equestrian artistry. Visually stunning, and performed in a state-of-the-art, 300-seat theatre. For show dates, ticket prices and additional information call (262) 728-8200 or visit thedancinghorses.com.

East Troy Electric Railroad 202 Church St., East Troy. Take a 14-mile train ride on the only remaining electric interurban tracks in Wisconsin. Historic museum and carefully maintained rail cars from 90 to 100 years ago. Stops at the Elegant Farmer. The depot is 15 miles north of Lake Geneva on Highway 120. Several trains depart each day on weekends from the East Troy Depot. Runs weekly on Sundays through Oct. 29.

The calendar of events is compiled from a variety of sources including area chambers of commerce and visitor bureaus and contains events available as of press time.

Dates and times may change and events may be canceled. Please verify details and locations prior to making plans.

THE SPIRIT

IS A PUBLICATION OF



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The group of portrayers for the cemetery walk not only played the part of specific citizens of the era, but also researched their history and wrote the historical speeches they gave.

A walk back in time



History of early settlers shared in Pioneer Cemetery

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

On a recent Saturday and Sunday, Pioneer Cemetery in Lake Geneva had a very different look. This historical cemetery, the first in Lake Geneva, could be seen with men and women in clothing of the 1800s, representing some of those who had died in those days.

They are seen standing near their graves, giving the impression of having returned to life, ready to tell the stories of their lives, their spouse's lives and some of the early history of Lake Geneva.

These people taking on the persona of long dead residents were volunteers for the program, presented by Black Point Estate.

"Each of the portrayers were given basic information about their character and then were expected to do the research to learn more and present a short history to those on the tour of the cemetery," shared Chris Brookes, coordinator for Black Point Estate Speakers Bureau and presenter of one woman researched based shows

based on history or literature. "They also had to create a costume appropriate for their character," Brookes added.

This Pioneer Cemetery walk included a self-guided map that led to nine different grave sites with historic interpreters to share their stories.

The cemetery was created by seven men who were interested in creating public spaces necessary to create a city that would be enjoyed by all residents and would have the needed parks, churches, and schools, to encourage a good life.

Outside the cemetery there is a plaque which reads: "Pioneer Cemetery The first cemetery in Lake Geneva.

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Entering Pioneer Cemetery, one passes this sign telling the history of the creation of the cemetery.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

In 1837 seven men who were early landowners in section 36, gave land to the village for public purposes. They wanted areas for parks, churches, schools, & a cemetery.

Thomas McKaig was hired to survey the land. Streets were named after early settlers & you will recognize some of the names on the gravestones located here. Land donors were R. Wells Warren, Greenleaf Warren, Col. James Maxwell, Dr. Philip Maxwell, Andrew Ferguson, George Campbell, Lewis Goodsell.”

Honoring the past

Upon entering the cemetery through the main gate there is another important sign – a list of the Civil War Veterans buried in Pioneer Cemetery. Many were the early settlers of Lake Geneva or their children.

The cemetery is a beautiful, peaceful place. Created in a perfect square, as it was surveyed by McKaig. It appears as a large park with beautiful large Oak, Maple, and Pine trees to add to the quiet peaceful look. It’s surrounded by four streets, Dodge, Maxwell, Warren and Park Row, some named after early residents who were responsible for the creation of it.

While most cemeteries are outside of towns, this cemetery is found in town with residential homes on all four streets around it. While not out

of town, it was built on the fringes of the community and over the years the neighborhood encircled it.

While meandering through the cemetery during the recent walk, soft music played by Cyndi Salata of the Lake Geneva Symphony. On Sunday’s walk, music was provided by the Country Gentlemen Barbershop Quartet.

Visitors on the walk were encouraged to bring a blanket and even a picnic lunch so they could sit down and enjoy themselves while listening to music and recalling the stories they heard of the early residents by the portrayals.

At one time the cemetery was filled with headstones commemorating the deaths of the early settlers and Civil War Veterans whose bodies were returned home. Over the years, the headstones – many of which were created out of limestone and sandstone – crumbled. Thus, it is now difficult to find some of the graves.

Over the years, as the headstones crumbled, they were piled up in one corner of the cemetery. Many who grew up in the area and who may have enjoyed playing in the cemetery recall a very tall pile of broken stones. Then one day they were no longer there and it’s believed the city removed them.

For many years the cemetery gates remained locked to prevent damage being done there. Owned

Fall events planned

Autumn is a time to get out and enjoy the last of the pleasant weather as we move toward winter. October especially is when we notice the changing colors of the leaves and when many celebrate Halloween, a time when some look into the spirits and the deceased of the area.

Black Point Estate offers a variety of programs that provide history of the area and introduce guests to spirits, spiritualism, and a historic walk through one of Lake Geneva’s most picturesque rural cemeteries.

Oak Hill Cemetery Walk

Oak Hill Cemetery was designed by Horace W.S. Cleveland, famous Midwest landscape designer. Take a walk through this beautiful cemetery and learn about the 19th century rural cemetery movement. Learn about some of the special Lake Geneva residents who are interred here.

This event – which will be offered Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., takes place outdoors and visitors will be walking through the cemetery so should dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Tickets are \$18 and the cemetery is at 1101 Cemetery Rd., Lake Geneva.

Spiritualism in the Victorian Era

Attend a special program held in the dining room of Black Point Estate. This event will focus on the spiritualism that was prominent in the Victorian Era.

Guests will learn about the famous Fox Sisters, often credited with creating the first major wave of Spiritualism in American as well as the Morris Pratt Institute, which was located in Whitewater and was the first school dedicated to teaching Spiritualism in America.

Following the program, guests will enjoy a Victorian era cordial.

Tickets are \$75 and the program will be offered Oct. 6, 13 and 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Black Point Estate, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva.

Sordid and Scandalous

Every place has stories of scandals and gossip that permeates the area and Lake Geneva is no exception. Learn about the historic gossip that included the 1950s bank robbery, the town’s tie to prohibition gangsters and tales of the Lake Geneva sea serpent.

The tour will meander through downtown and the historic Maple Park neighborhood and include its “sordid and scandalous” past. The walking tour and covers 1.3 miles in roughly 90 minutes and guests should dress for the weather along with wearing comfortable shoes.

Tickets at \$15 and the group will gather at 812 Wrigley Dr., Lake Geneva. Tours will be held Oct. 7, 14 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tickets for any of these events listed above may be purchased at blackpointestate.org or by calling 262-248-1888.

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OCTOBER 20 1 PM - 4 PM SENDIK'S Waukesha Meet n' Greet	OCTOBER 21 11 AM - 2 PM SENDIK'S Greenfield Meet n' Greet
OCTOBER 22 SENDIK'S - Oconomowoc, WI 10 AM Silent Pumpkin Auction 2 PM Winners Announced (Must be present to win.) Carvin' For Hope - St. Judes	OCTOBER 25 Good Day Stataline Airs @ 6PM SUNDAY MORNING OCT 29
OCTOBER 29 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM SENDIK'S Franklin Meet n' Greet	

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by the city, visitors had to request that the city unlock the gate so they could visit the graves. These requests were not always granted depending on the city's ability to send someone to open the gate however, they did open it on holidays and special days of their choosing.

This year, Patrick Quinn, a historian and retired Northwestern University Archivist, moved back to Lake Geneva to the home where he grew up. It happens that the home of his childhood is located right across from Pioneer Cemetery. He became the Keeper of the Keys to the Cemetery and now when he's in town and able to do so, he opens the cemetery every day for visitors to enjoy the history of the early settlers.

Renewed appreciation

The walk through the cemetery and meeting the various "Early Settlers" presented a new understanding of life in Lake Geneva many years ago. Viewing the settlers next to their graves offered a glimpse into the wealth of the individual settlers. The wealthier the family, the larger the family plot marker.

It was no surprise that the largest was that of Dr. Phillip Maxwell (Tom Yoder) and his wife, Mrs. Doctor Phillip Maxwell (JaNelle Powers). Although her first name was Jerusha, in this time it was common for the wife to be addressed as the spouse of her husband with no real identity of her own.

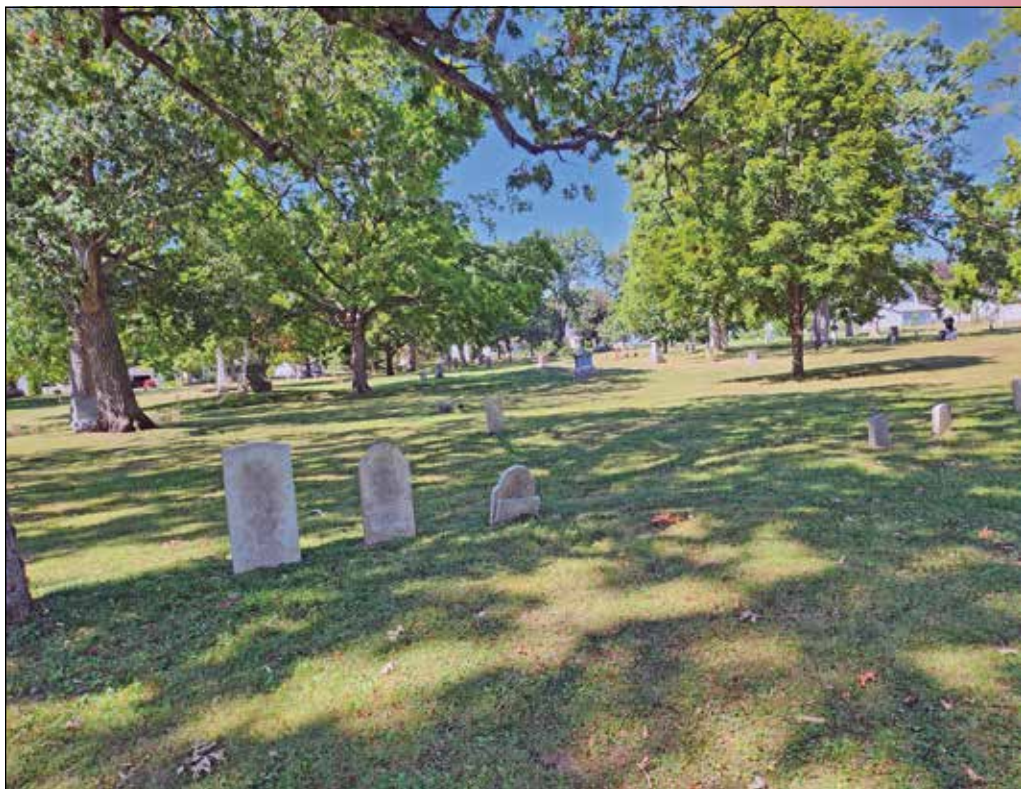
Dr. Maxwell was born in 1799 in Vermont. Before coming to Lake Geneva, he served in the New York Legislature, and opened a medical practice in Chicago. He enlisted in the army, planning to see the world, but was stationed in Chicago. Later he was transferred to Zachary Taylor's division in Louisiana.

Maxwell and his wife finally settled in Lake Geneva, building his home on the five acres of land he had purchased years before. Maxwell Mansion was an elegant home with tall windows, elaborate woodwork and marble fireplaces – a significant home for a significant wealthy citizen.

Listening to the stories during the walk, there were many historical traditions that many may not be aware of. Marriages for women often occurred at the ages of 15 to 16 and they would often have given birth to three or four children by the time they were 20 years old.

While we think of wedding dresses as white gowns, this has not always been the case. Prior to the marriage of Queen Victoria, almost all wedding gowns were black. But when Queen Victoria married in a white gown it changed the practice of black wedding gowns to the more fashionable white gowns that has continued to this day for many.

During the time of the Civil War more than 600,000 young men and boys lost their lives. There was a 1-in-4 chance of them returning and two-thirds of



above: Pioneer Cemetery features a beautiful, large open space in Lake Geneva. It's the oldest cemetery in Lake Geneva and was founded in 1837 in the community. With beautiful tall trees, it has the appearance of a quiet restful park. **top:** This sign honors the Civil War Veterans who were buried in the cemetery, installed by the Lake Geneva Historic Preservation Committee.

SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

those who died were not from military wounds but from disease. In those days – before the development of antibiotics – infections often led to death. Others died from measles, mumps and chicken pox. Amputations were common in an effort to stop the spread of infections in wounds.

The stories of the 1800s and the people who lived through them offers a look into the difficulties they lived through and died of. Visiting an early cemetery can offer insight into the obstacles these early settlers overcame and serve as a reminder of what all those who came before us endured.

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A PASSION FOR

Pumpkins

Area resident showcases her talent in a variety of art forms

By **Jason Arndt**

STAFF WRITER

Pumpkin carving is typically reserved for people looking to celebrate Halloween or usher in the fall season.

However, for Lake Geneva's Dori Davis-Beck, pumpkin carving is a talent she shares nearly year-round through community events and business partnerships in addition to her other art projects, which include watermelon carving, culinary decor, personalized hand-etched glass and pyrography.

While she has a knack for many artistic abilities, her passion for pumpkins is one quality that has drawn the most attention.

"I have had people say, 'Oh my God, there is the pumpkin lady!' or the pumpkin Goddess,'" Davis-Beck said. "I really don't care what people call me."

Her talents for pumpkin carving have brought her several invitations, including routine appearances at the annual Old Settlers Oktoberfest in Paddock Lake and Luna Fest in Lake Geneva.

Unexpected hobby

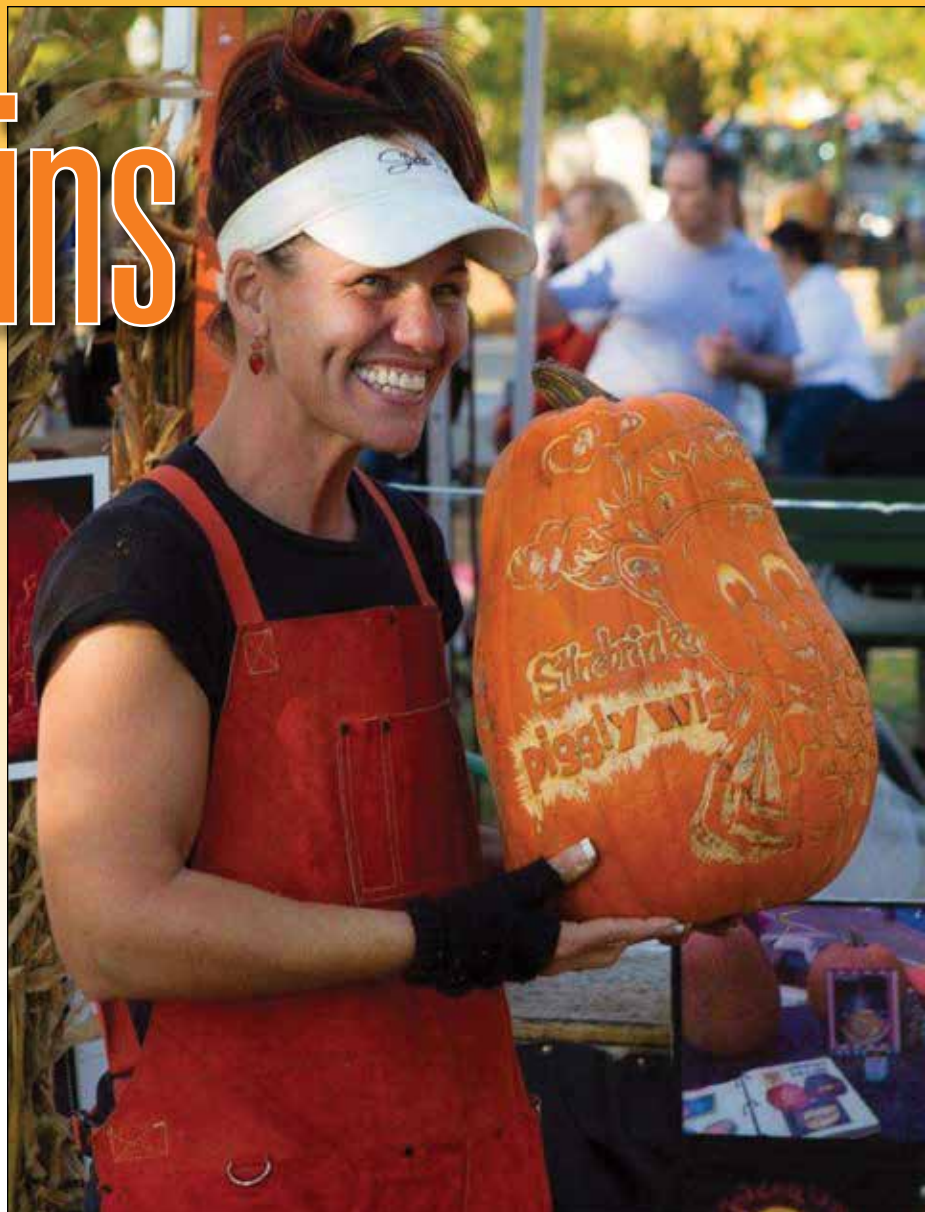
Davis-Beck, the youngest of five children, grew up in Syracuse, New York and remembers spending time with her oldest brother doing activities such as kite flying, fishing, and carving pumpkins.

But it wasn't until she moved to southern Wisconsin and started a family of her own that she discovered the talent she had for carving.

About 26 years ago, when her oldest daughter, Hali, was born, Davis-Beck worked as a bartender at Mars Resort in Lake Geneva.

While working, she decided to carve a pumpkin near the piano bar, which piqued the interest of customers and a new hobby was born.

She recalled customers looking to buy



Dori Davis-Beck, of Lake Geneva, showcases one of her carved pumpkins at a recent event.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes

her carved pumpkins for up to \$40.

"I didn't know the talent that I had," she said.

Although Davis-Beck couldn't quite pinpoint the reason why she developed a talent for pumpkin carving, she believes her experience as a staff member for the school yearbook played a role, noting she spent time processing negatives of photographs.

"For me, I could visualize the negatives," she said. "I could see the end result when I am drawing on the pumpkins. It intrigued me and I didn't know I had this gift. It is definitely a gift from God."

Davis-Beck now has three daughters, including Hali, 26, Glitch, 17, and Haidin, 15.

Unofficial record holder

About six years ago, she became the unofficial record holder for the fastest

pumpkin carved at 13.51 seconds.

She said she initially planned to carve an eccentric pumpkin but didn't intend on setting a new record.

But because of red tape, accessibility and costs, she couldn't officially add herself to the Guinness Book of World Records, which is in the United Kingdom and requires the record holder pay \$10,000 and have witnesses on hand.

"There was a lot of red tape. I did have my three video people, I had the time taker people and it was in front of a large audience because it had to be in front of people," she said. "But it cost \$10,000 to be in the book or to have somebody from the UK come to your event and witness it."

Increased demand

Davis-Beck previously worked as event coordinator for weddings and special



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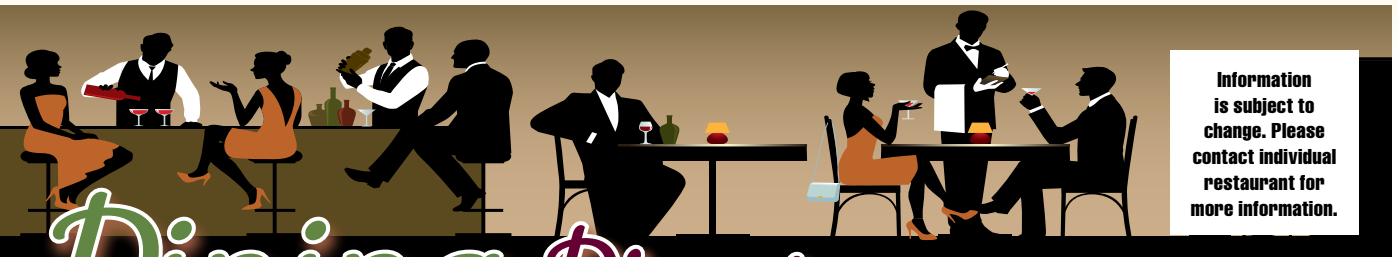
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Key

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner NC: No credit cards accepted \$: Mostly under \$10 \$\$: Mostly under \$20 GF: Gluten free
\$\$\$: Mostly under \$30 FF: Fish Fry ☎: Reservations requested † : Alcohol served ☺: Kids menu SR: Senior menu

443765



Studio Dori, owned by Dori Davis-Beck, offers a variety of art services ranging from culinary décor and personalized hand-etched glass to pyrography and even watermelon carving.

below: A few years back, Davis-Beck became the unofficial world record holder for the fastest pumpkin carved.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Spirit of Geneva Lakes

occasions at various venues in the region.

At the same time, Davis-Beck had a Lake Geneva studio called Studio Dori, which featured her art.

Studio Dori opened in 2014, but she sold the building in 2018 and began taking her show on the road.

“Then life became busier because I was going to different locations to do my art,” said Davis-Beck, who added that she hopes to reopen Studio Dori soon.

In the meantime, her pumpkin carving has been one of the most popular services requested by customers.

Pumpkin season

For many years, Davis-Beck grew her own pumpkins, but couldn’t this year so she outsourced them. She continues carving pumpkins through Thanksgiving.

Davis-Beck said she typically begins commission work on Thanksgiving centerpieces, using pumpkins as a focal point after Halloween.

Once Thanksgiving commences, she turns her attention to hand etched glass, another art form she offers to customers.

As for carving pumpkins, Davis-Beck uses hand tools, instead of electric-powered ones because it allows her better control.

She said there are notable differences between carving a foam pumpkin and a real pumpkin.

“(Foam pumpkins) are messier than the real ones,” she said. “I don’t use electric tools on my pumpkins. I like to use hand tools because I need to feel the resistance. With foam pumpkins, there is so much dust and it goes everywhere. It is really hard to cut through and I have broken blades.”

To make her carvings last longer, she uses Neosporin around the cuts of the pumpkin and sprays Rust-Oleum on them, among other techniques.

Blessed gift

The artist said pumpkin carving has brought other unexpected benefits.

“I love fitness. Pumpkins have helped me to keep in shape,” Davis-Beck said. “I know it sounds funny and silly, but you have to have a very strong core to manipulate pumpkins.”

She also said her art brings out energy and enthusiasm in others, particularly for

those who enjoy pumpkins.

“I’m so very grateful to possess these talents and gifts to share with everybody,” she said. “It’s such a feel-good energy because everybody loves to talk about pumpkins.”

Since she began showcasing her work, people have developed a sense of curiosity to her art, she said.

“I didn’t realize in the beginning how interesting it was and I am just so grateful and blessed,” Davis-Beck said.

For more information – including upcoming events Davis-Beck will attend – visit studiodori.com or follow her on Facebook.





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A wedding venue with all the views



Abbey Springs a full service venue from planning to reception

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

For those who've always dreamed of a wedding on the lake shore, specifically along the shore of Geneva Lake, Abbey Springs is one of the best options in the area. It not only provides a gorgeous venue but also an elegant room for the reception in the Abbey Springs Clubhouse.

The clubhouse is set high on a hill surrounded by beautifully landscaped grounds to add to its beauty. This is the location for the wedding of many peoples' dreams.

"Preparation for a wedding at Abbey Springs begins about a year and a half to two years in advance," shared Kinda Shinto, Clubhouse Manager at Abbey Springs. "We only book one wedding a weekend so you are sure to have the best in service for your event."

Some couples come in with a list of

exactly what they want while others are a bit unsure of the details. In either case, Shinto will work with them to ensure that their dream becomes a reality.

"Before we even schedule a tour, I do a phone interview with them to see if our facility is appropriate for their needs and wants," added Shinto.

They start the discussion with the date they would like for the wedding and alternates if that date is already reserved. From there, they move on to other details.

"Knowing the size of the wedding reception is important as Abbey Springs can handle about 175 guests comfortably. If they want a larger reception such as over 200 guests, Abbey Springs is not the facility for the reception," offered Shinto.

They will also discuss types of refreshments to be served and the all-important budget for the event. After this phone interview, a tour of the grounds is scheduled.

The tour, especially if it falls on a beautiful sunny day, cannot help but make the couple fall in love with the site. Abbey Springs is a gated community on the south shore of Geneva Lake with amenities that include a quality golf course and fine

quality dining in their private restaurants. Some features are open to the public but many are just for residents of Abbey Springs.

"You do not have to be a resident in Abbey Springs or a member of the Country Club to schedule a wedding or other special event here," Shinto explained. "But you do have to have a membership to use the many amenities on the grounds such as the recreation center and the on-site restaurants."

Years of experience

Shinto has been the Clubhouse Manager at Abbey Springs for over eight years but has over 30 years of experience overseeing weddings, banquets and other private events. She is well known for her attention to detail to assure that every aspect will be as perfect as every bride and groom expect it to be.

When planning a wedding there are many details and decisions to be made. Having someone to work with in planning this very important day assures that nothing of importance will be forgotten.

That personal touch will be carried through throughout the event when Shinto

Abbey Springs in Fontana is an ideal place for a lake front wedding and features a wide variety of stunning places for photo opportunities.

PHOTO COURTESY ABBEY SPRINGS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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will personally be there from the start of the ceremony until after the cutting of the cake.

The site of Abbey Springs has features not be found at other venues. On the lakeshore is a grassy knoll where chairs are set up for those attending the ceremony. With the bridal couple in front of the guests, they will have a view of the couple as they profess their vows and the lake in the background.

“We hold weddings here three seasons of the year, in spring, summer and fall,” Shinto said. “We do not hold outdoor weddings in the winter. Sometimes we will hold a reception in the clubhouse in the winter for a couple who have had their ceremony at a church in town. But that is the exception.”

Ready for anything

Adjacent to the ceremony site is a large tent space that has multiple uses for weddings, including serving cocktails after the ceremony so the wedding party and guests can enjoy the ambience of the waterfront prior to heading to the clubhouse. In the event that the weather would turn inclement, the area is a place to move the ceremony and guests to protect them from the rain, while still keeping the event on the lakeshore for the lakeview is still beautiful even in the rain.

Next to the waterfront is the boathouse where there is a space the bride can use to put on the finishing touches of her makeup before making her entrance.

The boathouse also has a small room for private dinners that can be booked for a rehearsal dinner or for a brunch the morning following the wedding. The space will hold approximately 25 guests and the chef will work with the bridal party to customize the menu.

Since many of the weddings that take place at Abbey



above: This happy couple celebrates with their guests after saying “I do” in a lake front ceremony on the south shore of Geneva Lake in Fontana. **at right:** After the ceremony, newlywed couples can take advantage of countless areas for photos, or a moment of quiet, at Abbey Springs.

PHOTOS COURTESY ABBEY SPRINGS *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*



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Springs are destination weddings, family members may still be in town the next day and enjoy getting together before heading home.

Photographs of the wedding couple and party may be taken on the grounds before or after the ceremony or both. There is a white pier that's available and creates a beautiful setting for the couple's photographs as it really captures the lakefront spirit.

While there is rarely a couple that does not fall in love with the waterside ceremony space, crossing the road to the clubhouse and viewing the banquet room where the reception will be held will likely solidify this as the perfect space for their wedding.

Located on a hill with many windows circling the room, there are views of the surrounding area and the golf course with its perfectly manicured grounds. The room is warm and welcoming with its vaulted ceiling and exposed wooden beams. A fireplace in the room adds to the warm and cozy feeling of the space.

On one wall is the long and elegant wooden bar, built specifically to cover one wall of the room, easily accommodates those ordering their drinks. Many times, a bar at a wedding appears to be a temporary pace brought in for the event but the one at Abbey Springs is definitely an integral part of the ambience of the room.

"The set up for the room will vary, depending on the type of dinner, music and other amenities requested by the couple," Shinto said. "Abbey Springs will set up the tables and chairs and provide the linens and table settings. These will be set up in advance to allow the couple ample time to

bring in additional decorations to add that uniquely special look for the reception. We do not provide centerpieces for the tables so that is something the bridal party may want to bring in to add their special look."

Variety of packages

There are several wedding packages available with a variety of menu choices selected by the chef in different price ranges. The couple may choose a formal sit-down, plated dinner or a buffet style service.

Each wedding package includes a choice of appetizers to be either self-served from those on display or to be Butler passed. Choosing the appetizers and the entrees from the list of items offered might be a challenge as each item sounds more delectable than the one before it. The chef will also work with the couple to accommodate any special dietary needs.

Each package includes a four-hour open bar. The types of drinks available will depend on the package chosen but can be upgraded to meet the needs of the couple.

According to Shinto, the setup of the room is also dependent on the choice of music.

"Live music usually takes up more space than a disc jockey as there needs to be room for their instruments," she said.

For many years, the giant wedding cake of many tiers, covered with white frosting and a plastic bride and groom on the top was the cake of choice. Today there is no one type of wedding cake that meets every couple's needs. A smaller traditional wedding cake may be chosen for pictures of

the cutting of the cake and a variety of other desserts may be served. The cake or sweet table items are brought in by the couple from their favorite bakery.

Abbey Springs will provide a list of preferred vendors for services including florists, photographers, musicians, bakers, and local hotels for those requesting them. Since there is not a hotel on site, some wedding parties and guests look into renting private homes so that they may stay overnight at the venue. These are privately rented by homeowners or through agencies such as Airbnb or other vacation rentals.

Planning a wedding should not be a stressful time but a time of excitement and fun as a couple prepares for the happiest day of their lives. Working with a reputable venue, and with well experienced personnel like Shinto will assure that the day is as perfect in reality as it is in your dreams.

Abbey Springs is at 1 Country Club Dr., Fontana. For more information, call 262-275-6113 email info@abbeysprings.org or kindashinto@abbeysprings.org, or visit the website, abbeysprings.org. to view wedding packages available and a photo gallery.



The clubhouse at Abbey Springs is an ideal place for a wedding reception, featuring numerous windows, a fireplace and a vaulted ceiling with beams.

FILE PHOTO BY SANDRA LANDEN MACHAJ *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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N7474 Mariner Hills, Elkhorn - Lake or pool day? You can do both with this home. Steps to the assoc. pool and walking distance to assoc. lakefront park on Lauderdale Lakes. Rustic charm with modern touches this 2 BD, 1 bath home located in Mariner Hills. Updated kitchen and bath, natural stone frplc., vaulted ceilings, screened porch, wrap around deck and frg. fenced back yard. Finished 2.5 insulated detached garage. The association owns and maintains a private 6-slip member only pier. Close to boat launch and minutes to Kettle Moraine Trail head. **\$329,700**



W5187 Lauderdale Dr., Elkhorn - 6 BR, 5 bath log sided, two story home on 60' of level Middle Lake frontage with extended lake views. Updated kitchen with granite tops, SS appliances, large island and dinette lakeside with access to deck. Living room with stone frplc. and wet bar. Master bdrm. en-suite with slider to deck, 2nd bdrm offering slider to deck. Upper level is a 25x25 bdrm. or family room with full bath. Two car detached garage with finished 22x23 guest suite. Whole house generator. Minutes to Kettle Moraine. **\$2,399,700**



N7729 Laura Lane, Elkhorn - Lakefront estate on 142' of sand frontage on Lauderdale "Gold Coast" situated on manicured 1.28 wooded acres completely fenced and gated. 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath main house with open foyer to eat-in kitchen and lakeside dining room. Living room with fireplace and slider to screened porch with stone frplc. and beverage fridge. 2 stone frplcs, living room built-ins and family room w/wet bar. Upstairs bonus room. Mstr. suite w/his-her closets, mstr. bath w/frg. shower, stand alone tub and heated floors. 2 frg. bedrooms w/walk-in closets and J&J bath. Laundry area w/storage lockers and dog wash. Lrg. covered porch w/frg. heaters and sound system. 2 bdrm. guest house, incredible boat house. **\$3,499,700**



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W5193 Sterlingworth Ct., Elkhorn - Waterfront 3BR 2BA home on Lauderdale Lakes. Features 50' of clear sand/gravel Mill Lake frontage. Updated throughout, an open single-level efficient floorplan with vaulted ceilings seamlessly flows to a screened-in porch. Luxurious modern kitchen has SS appliances, quartz counters, large island & farmhouse sink. Oversized windows & deck. Handcrafted hardwood floors & stone frplc. Level yard for recreation, just steps to the water. Private walkout lower-level BR/BA suite, 2 car detached garage. New HVAC w/Next & smart lighting. Easy highway access. **\$1,298,700**

44-56359



Tips to help master your wedding guest list

Weddings are such momentous occasions that it's no wonder couples want to share their big days with as many people as possible. Though a wedding where all friends, family members and acquaintances are in attendance may be a dream scenario, reality often calls for a more carefully curated guest list.

Data from The Wedding Report indicates that the average cost of a wedding is slightly more than \$20,000, though that figure could be substantially higher, or even lower, depending on where couples tie the knot.

The number of guests couples will host on their wedding day will affect which venue they book and how much food and beverages they'll need to satisfy guests. Couples who hope to stay within budget can consider these tips as they try to build a guest list that won't break the bank.

Accept input

Parents may no longer foot the entire bill for their children's weddings, but couples who are accepting some financial help from parents must also accept Mom's and Dad's input regarding the guest list.

Even if parents' desired guests do not ultimately make the cut, it's best to respect their wishes and consider who they want to invite. Couples who are financing their own weddings without outside help need not feel beholden to invite anyone who does not meet their invitation criteria.

Make a preliminary list without regard to budget

Couples can have fun making preliminary guest lists without considering their budgets. A preliminary list can serve as a solid starting point, and couples may even realize that their list is within budget. Once the preliminary lists have been created, couples can categorize guests (i.e., distant cousins, coworkers, etc.) and then work together to determine if any categories can be eliminated from the invitation list. For example, couples who may be going over budget with their guest lists can each agree to remove distant cousins from their prospective invitees.

Seek advice

Many couples face difficult decisions regarding their wedding day guest lists,

so it can be helpful to speak to a recently married friend or relative to see how they handled paring down their guest lists. Some might have done it by category, while others might have limited guest lists to local friends and family. When taking this approach, couples can speak to friends about how they approached handling people who were surprised that they were not on the final list of invitees.

Throw a less formal party down the road

A less expensive backyard barbecue within weeks of tying the knot can serve as a less costly alternative to a large wedding reception. Couples who take this approach can keep their wedding day guest lists to a minimum, but invite everyone they hope to see to a post-wedding day backyard barbecue or potluck picnic so they can celebrate with everyone they love.

Curating a wedding day guest list is no small task. However, couples can try various approaches to keep a guest list more manageable and less expensive.

(METRO CREATIVE)

Curating a wedding day guest list is no small task. However, couples can try various approaches to keep a guest list more manageable and less expensive.

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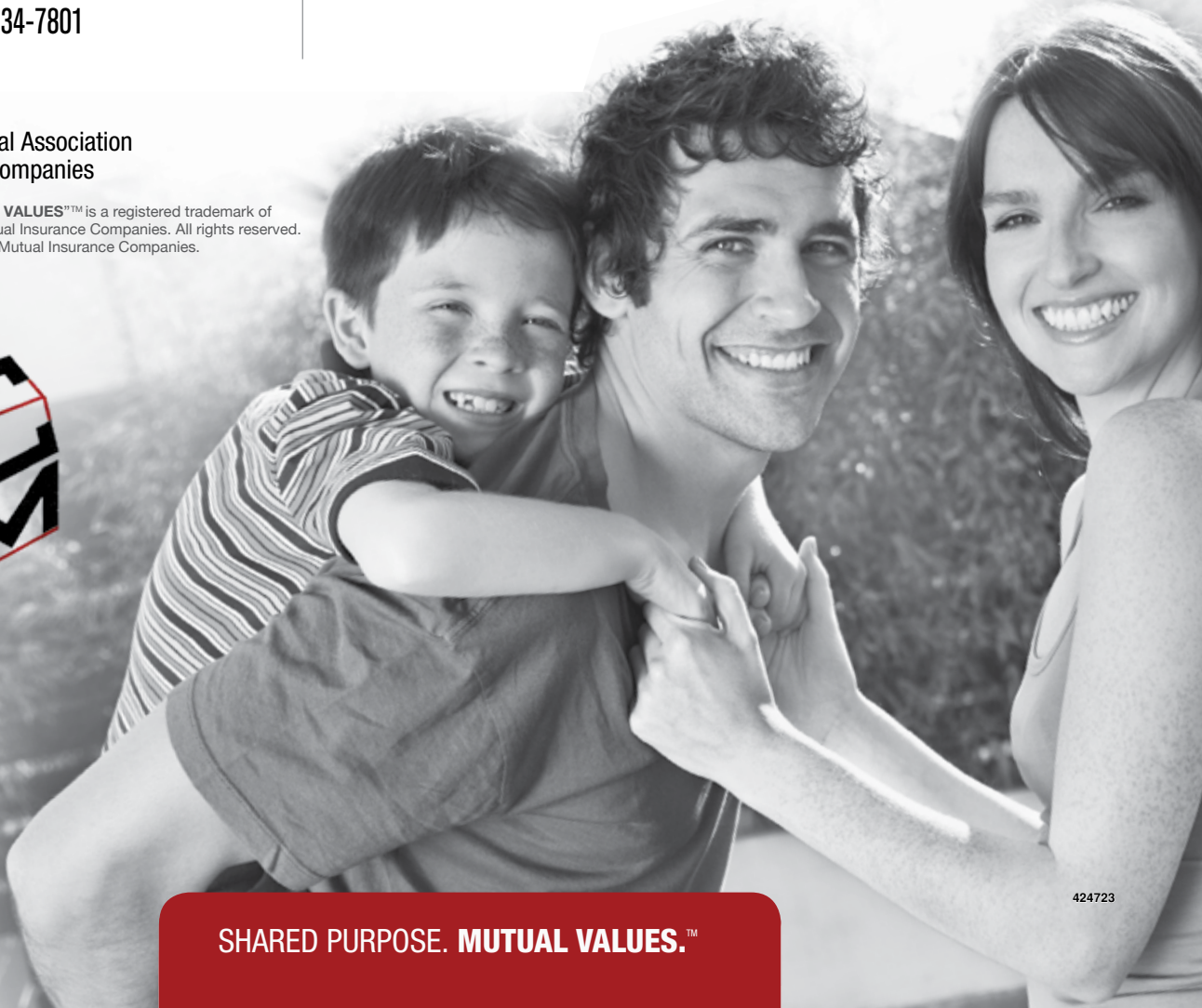
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Music is an important component of wedding celebrations and deserves some extra consideration to ensure everyone has a great time while cutting a rug.

STOCK PHOTO Spirit of Geneva Lakes



Music is an important component of weddings

Few things set the mood of a wedding more effectively than music. Beautiful songs often are incorporated into wedding ceremonies, and romantic or upbeat songs intermingle to create a festive mix at receptions.

Playlists curated specifically for weddings can be found online to help couples narrow down their options. According to Wedding Forward, a wedding planning guide, wedding planning experts and modern couples agree that wedding playlists should be have a 60/40 split of classics and new wedding songs.

Music is a personal choice, but couples may benefit by considering who will be in attendance at their weddings. In so doing,

couples can ensure the music played at their weddings reaches as many people as possible there:

- **Wedding processional song:** The wedding processional is the moment the wedding party walks down the aisle. Music may be a traditional hymn, classical music or a favorite contemporary song.

- **Bridal processional song:** In many traditional wedding ceremonies, the bride walks down the aisle separately, with her father or both parents. She customarily will have a different song from the rest of the wedding party. While “Bridal Chorus/Wedding March” is a traditional choice, some brides may prefer a different tune.

- **Wedding recessional song:** Again, depending on the ceremony location and choices, the recessional may be a classical piece or a hymn. Some couples choose an upbeat song for their first official promenade as a married couple.

- **Wedding party entrance song:** Couples can ask their music vendor to put together the majority of the songs for their reception,

but they may want to choose their own wedding party entrance. This song typically is a fast-paced, upbeat song that gets the crowd pumping and ready for a fun night. Think “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz or “Can’t Stop the Feeling!” by Justin Timberlake.

- **First dance:** The first dance song is another personal choice for the couple. Slow songs traditionally are chosen, but couples who want something a little different have increasingly selected faster songs and paired them with rehearsed choreography. “Thinking Out Loud” by Ed Sheeran has become a popular first dance song.

- **Other songs:** Couples also will select songs to complement dances with their parents, cake cutting, garter toss, and any other special traditions or moments. They also can make requests to include songs of different eras to appeal to guests of all ages.

Music is an important component of wedding celebrations and deserves some extra consideration to ensure everyone has a great time while cutting a rug.

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Legends of Lore, workshops and Home for the Holidays to close out the season

by **Sandra Landen Machaj**

CORRESPONDENT

In the fall, Old World Wisconsin takes on a different look than the one guests experience in the summer. Just as back in the 1800s, as they were growing crops summer crops to provide food for the long Wisconsin winters, fall brings changes from growing and harvesting crops to preserving them for use during the winter.

While Old World Wisconsin begins to wind down for the winter, there are still a variety of activities to observe, participate in, and learn more about early life here in

Wisconsin. Early inhabitants – who made their way from Europe and managed to bring their traditions and skills with them and adapt them to life in America – have a lot to teach us about creating a happy, healthy, and sustainable life for the family.

Throughout the season, there are numerous programs that not only demonstrate the traditions of the times but also teach a variety of the skills needed to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Autumn means the leaves on the trees are turning yellow, green, orange and sometimes red, and then fall and cover the ground, letting us know that Halloween with its pumpkins and ghostly stories is nearing and it might be time to plan a visit to Old World Wisconsin.

Legends and Lore

Halloween Legends and Lore is a time of jack-o-lanterns, ghosts and goblins, and some spooky and scary events at Old

World Wisconsin. It also shares a variety of traditions and supernatural tales that have been brought to Wisconsin with the immigrants who made this land their home and shared stories of the past.

Many include traditional activities enjoyed by many during the fall season including the carving of pumpkins and decorating using corn stalks to create a fall holiday feel as we move into this time of the year. It's also a time when many search for scary and spooky tales of old.

Families looking to take in a fun fall outing should consider a trip to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle for the Halloween Legends and Lore Event. Each fall at Old World Wisconsin, families gather to enjoy what's described on the website as "a time when many of the supernatural tales of old come to life at this always spooky, sometimes scary Halloween event for the whole family."

It's held in the Crossroads Village at Old

Melting marshmallows over an open fire is an ideal way to spend a fall evening.

PHOTO COURTESY OLD WORLD WISCONSIN *Spirit of Geneva Lakes*

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World and is a fun event where visitors learn more about the history of Halloween through the interactive event.

“This is a favorite family event that sells out quickly as families enjoy the somewhat spooky and always enjoyable celebration of the Halloween Legends and Lore,” shared Maria Comiskey, General Manager of Experiences and Events at Old World Wisconsin.

The event begins at 5:30 pm and continues to 9:30 pm, bringing a spooky feel as the sun goes down. There are numerous displays as well as tales of old shared by storytellers from the Kettle Moraine Performers.

Guests can take a walk along a trail to “hunt the Hodag,” which, according to Comiskey, is a lizard like beast said to come from Rhinelander.

People of all ages will enjoy the stories and the music along with hot foods, drinks and sweets as well as a stop at the museum store, which will be open. Enjoy an evening full of chills, thrills, and things that go bump in the night, just up the road at Old World.

Halloween Legends and Lore will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings from Oct. 6 through Oct. 21. Tickets can be purchased online and are \$20 for 13 years and older, \$14 for children 5 to 12 years of age, free for children 5 and younger.

Wool Spinning

Old World Wisconsin also offers a variety of other fall weekend activities, created not just for children but for adults as well. One still available this fall is the Historic Apprentice Workshop entitled Beginning Wool Spinning.

If you’ve ever wondered how wool goes from growing on the sheep to the finished yarns used to knit or crochet sweaters, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, and even jackets to keep us warm in the winter, this class is worth consideration.

It starts with the sheep’s fleece which attendees will be taught how to wash, prepare, and card wool before being introduced to the spinning wheel. Guest do not need to have their own spinning wheel as they’ll be taught on wheels provided, including how they are used and maintained. From there, they will learn the process of spinning the wool on the wheel.

There are two sessions left for this event this fall, Saturday, Nov. 4 and Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This program is designed for those 13 years of age and older and advance registration is required. The class



top: A family enjoys the Halloween decorations and displays at Old World Wisconsin. **middle:** These youngsters take in the Halloween décor, including this stack of pumpkins. **at right:** Costumed performers at the history museum stand inside coffins as they tell their “legendary” stories to guests.

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costs \$175 and tickets can be purchased on the website.

Cooking and Baking

Another Historic Apprentice Workshop still available focuses on cooking and baking. Many enjoy the smell of freshly made bread, followed by the taste of that bread but this will take it further with a step back in time to learn how to make bread as it was done in the 1800s – from scratch, in a historic structure.

As you step back into time into the 1870s at a Hessian Immigrant Farm, you will work with an Old World Wisconsin ambassador who will guide you through the baking process working with an historic bake oven. You will learn about the bread making process as it was carried on long ago and how to make various spreads to enjoy on your freshly baked bread.

After checking in at the Ramsey Barn, participants will be directed to the workshop location along a gravel road. A box lunch will be provided and those attending can bring water bottles permitted they have a closed lid. There will not be an opportunity to purchase beverages or snacks and because the class will take place in a building heated only by a woodstove, it's important to dress appropriately, preferably in layers.

Tickets for the workshop, which will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and has remaining

dates of Nov. 4 and Nov. 11 yet, may be purchased at the website. This workshop is also open to those 13 and older and the cost is \$175 per person.

Home for the Holidays

The last of the events for this year at Old World will be the Home for the Holidays celebration. For most people, there is nowhere better to be than to be home for the holidays so what would be more fitting than to take a step back in time and enjoy the holidays as they were celebrated in the early homes in Wisconsin, which were much different than homes today.

Begin with a walk through the 19th century Crossroads village and enjoy the music and homes decked out and bustling with cheer. As guests enter the homes, they will experience the traditions of the season brought to life as they would have been in those early days. These traditions that were brought to Wisconsin all those years ago and are still carried on by many families. Visitors will learn how these traditions helped build community, bringing together families from different countries as they created a new life here.

While meandering through the village keep an eye out for Krampus, the evil character who is known to scare children who have been naughty. Stop at Santa's workshop and take a family picture, enjoy holiday music and maybe even do some

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To get the feel of a real Wisconsin winter holiday, hopefully there will be a light coating of snow on the ground or falling gently from the sky. Those who wish are invited to enjoy a ride in the horse drawn wagon and there is an opportunity to purchase a token for \$6 to create a leather ornament, or a hand-forged item at the Blacksmith shop.

Before or after touring the village, stop in the heated octagonal barn for brunch, which is served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations are not required for brunch and it can serve as an ideal start or finish to a visit.

Tickets need to be purchased online and Home for the Holidays will be held on Saturdays and Sundays, Dec. 2 to Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with the last entry being at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20, children from 5 years to 12 years of age are \$14 and those 5 and younger are free.

Old World Wisconsin is at W372 S9727 Hwy 67 in Eagle. For more information, or to purchase tickets for any of the events listed, visit oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.com.



above: Dressed in costume, this family celebrates Halloween.
top right: It's hard to tell if these folks are looking into the past or the future, or maybe just telling a story.

PHOTOS COURTESY OLD WORLD WISCONSIN Spirit of Geneva Lakes

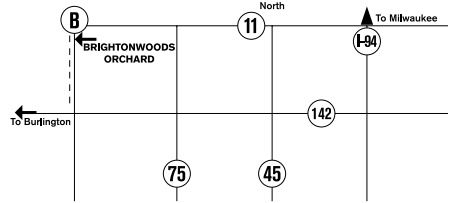
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